

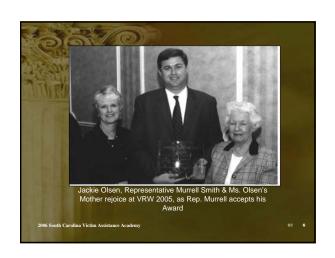
The crime victims' movement has been born out of the tragedies of individuals

Individuals who have chosen to use their own tears to change the way crime victims are treated by our justice system

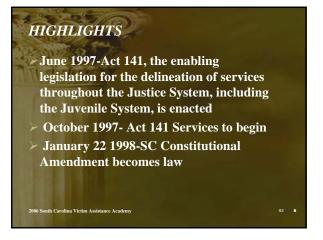
All of us owe a great debt to these persons, both for their ability to turn something tragic into good, and for their willingness to be vulnerable to the scrutiny of the news media and to strangers

As victim service providers, it becomes our job to see to it that the efforts of so many do not dwindle to just a job, not something mundane, not something to be taken lightly; but a meaningful service to those who need us so desperately to help navigate the justice system to which they are unfamiliar & to see to it that we do not re-victimize those who have already been victimized!









SC Constitution is unique in that it establishes rights for every victim of all crime, even victims of juvenile crime.

SC is making important strides for crime victims, but a vast number of victims are still not receiving their Constitutionally guaranteed rights

According to the SC Constitution, if victims are not provided their rights, a victim may submit a Writ of Mandamus to the court to require their rights be provided to them

To date, SC has only had two cases filed with the Supreme Court in an attempt to clarify specific victim rights issues.

Significantly, SC provides crime victims with unique access to criminal courts where most states do not!

The next wave of initiatives for crime victims must be in the arena of enforcement

SCVAN received a federal grant in 2004 that seeks to enforce the rights of victims in SC by collaboration with the SC Bar, the SC Attorney General's Office, the SC Ombudsman, SOVA, and the Charleston School of Law

Over 400 requests for legal services have been received by the Crime Victim Legal Network to date.





The Justice For All Act

2004- US Congress passed the strongest federal crime victims' legislation in the nation's history after the failure to approve a Federal Constitutional Amendment: HR 5107, The Justice for All Act

The Act strengthens the rights of victims of federal crimes & provides enforcement and remedies when there is a failure to comply; Title 1 is named in honor of 5 victims: Scott Campbell, Stephanie Roper, Wendy Preston, Louarna Gillis and Nila Lynn; HR 5107 also includes provisions for DNA backlog and authorizes \$155 million in funding

Finally, all of us thank the victims and survivors of crime it has been our privilege to serve. They have taught us most of what we know, and their courage reminds us every day why it is so important for us to improve our skills.